

COVER LETTER

Dear Reader:

The Washington State Department of Natural Resources is faced with challenging environmental issues and options in the 1990s.

These choices are described in the Forest Resource Plan and final environmental impact statement (FEIS), which were prepared by the department. They address the management of 2.1 million acres of state forest land.

The department has attempted to make the plan and FEIS as brief and readable as possible.

Earlier this year, the department scheduled a series of public open houses to receive comments on the draft plan and draft EIS. The final plan and FEIS reflect comments received at these sessions, as well as subsequent letters received from individuals, the forest industry, environmental groups, tribes, state and federal agencies and others. **These comments are contained in the Public Comment volume, which is published separately but which is part of this FEIS.**

The following key issues are addressed by the plan:

1. The department's trust responsibilities.
2. The rate (level) of timber harvest.
3. The management of diverse forest lands with diverse management needs.
4. The identification of state forest lands with special ecological features.
5. The impact of clearcutting.
6. The protection for soils, water and other public resources.
7. The department's goals to protect forest health, wildlife habitat and aquatic systems.
8. The department's relationship with adjacent landowners.
9. The role of state forest lands in growing population areas.

The Board of Natural Resources must approve the plan and FEIS before they take effect.

FACT SHEET

Brief Description of Proposed Action

The Washington State Department of Natural Resources has prepared this Forest Resource Plan and accompanying final environmental impact statement (FEIS). If adopted by the Board of Natural Resources, the Forest Resource Plan will guide the department in the next 10 years (1992-2002) in managing 2.1 million acres of state forest land in Washington.

Tentative Date of Implementation

The department plans to submit the final plan and FEIS to the Board of Natural Resources for approval in July 1992. If approved by the Board, the plan will take effect immediately and will replace the Forest Land Management Program (FLMP), approved by the Board in 1984.

Lead Agency

The Department of Natural Resources is the lead agency for purposes of this FEIS, which is published in partial satisfaction of the requirements of the State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA) (Chapter 43.21C RCW) and the SEPA Rules (Chapter 197-11 WAC).

The responsible official is Art McCoy, Forest Land Management Division. For more information, contact Mike Nystrom, project manager, 206-753-0671.

Author and Principal Contributors

The plan and FEIS were prepared by Mike Nystrom, project manager; Mr. Glenn Yeary, assistant division manager; and Dan Seligman, Columbia Research Corp., writer/consultant. A more detailed list of participants is contained in **Appendix A** of the DEIS.

Date of Issue

The plan and FEIS were issued in July 1992.

Comments

The period for public comment on the draft plan and draft environmental impact statement occurred between January 21, 1992 and March 20, 1992.

Time and Place of Public Open Houses

The department received public comments on the plan at eight public open houses that were held between February 3 and 27 at the following locations: Mt. Vernon, Seattle, Port Angeles, Spokane, Yakima, Olympia, Vancouver and Bellingham.

Final Action

The department plans to submit the final plan and FEIS to the Board of Natural Resources in July 1992. This date is subject to change. The Board's approval of both documents constitute the final action.

Subsequent Environmental Review

The draft plan is considered to be a "nonproject proposal" (WAC 197-11-442). It describes a statewide program, a series of proposed policies for the department to follow in managing state forest land. The department recognizes that subsequent environmental reviews of its actions will be necessary when it prepares to undertake site-specific activities. The department has not identified specific times when these reviews will take place.

Location of Prior EIS and Reports

The Forest Land Management Program (the prior document) and EIS, which were approved by the Board in 1984, are available along with supporting documentation for this plan and FEIS at the Forest Land Management Division, 9701 Blomberg Street S.W., Olympia, Washington.

Cost

There is no charge to the public for obtaining the initial copy of the plan and FEIS. Additional copies may be purchased from the Forest Land Management Division for \$12 a set.

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